

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 26 stands rejected.

Claims 27 and 28 stand objected to.

Claims 26 and 28 have been amended. No New matter has been added.

Claims 4-8, 15-17 and 29-31 are allowed.

Claim 27 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 4-8, 15-17, and 26-31 are pending.

II. Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 4-8, 15-17 and 27-31. Applicant has amended claim 26 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 27, while amending claim 28 to depend from claim 26. Thus, claims 26-28 have been rendered allowable.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,549,789 to Kfoury.


Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 27 and thus rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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